

Bill Bowen's Doublespeak

Editor's Note: Recently CAP mailed the letter shown on the opposite page to all living Princeton alumni — some 35,000 people. It elicited an enormous response, including numerous complaints and queries to the Bowen administration. In an effort to deflect alumni discontent, President Bowen mailed a lengthy rebuttal to CAP's claims, which is reproduced here. It is followed by our response to President Bowen. We urge all alumni to read carefully the arguments here presented, and to share with us, and Nassau Hall, your reactions.

I welcome this opportunity to respond to your inquiry concerning the letter recently circulated by David Condit '73. While on previous occasions many alumni have complained of the confusions and distortions in materials that the Concerned Alumni of Princeton have distributed, this letter is particularly discouraging in its disregard for the facts.

Contrary to the assertion of the letter, I believe that alumni returning to campus these days find a university that is not only "recognizable" in all important respects, but that continues to pursue the same goals, and to be shaped by the same fundamental commitments, that have distinguished Princeton for so long. Certainly many alumni express that view after returning for Reunions or Alumni Day or the Princeton Today programs sponsored by the Alumni Council, and surely there is evidence of strong positive feelings in the interest that so many alumni take in having their children accepted for admission.

While Princeton's student body is more reflective now of the diversity of America's pluralistic society, all students are still admitted on the basis of both their academic promise and their personal qualities. We continue to offer an academic program that concentrates on the basic arts and sciences, that requires breadth as well as depth, and that emphasizes independent writing and research, small classes, and close interaction with faculty members.

We also continue to offer a broad array of extracurricular activities, and to care deeply about the personal, religious, and moral development of our students.

We seek to preserve the fundamental continuities of Princeton in part through the admission each year of a substantial percentage of the alumni children who apply. This past year, for example, we were able to admit only 16.8 percent of our applicants overall, but we admitted 47.6 percent of our applicants with alumni parents.

to remain relatively constant over time, reflecting both the quality of applicants from alumni families and the special value attached to alumni status in the admission process.

This process, and our admission policies generally, operate under the supervision of a Trustee Committee that is chaired this year by Peter Gillette '56, an Alumni Trustee from Minneapolis. These policies are administered by the Dean of the College and the Dean of Admission with advice from a Faculty Committee on Undergraduate Admission and Financial Aid.

Professor Lawrence Stone, one of our most distinguished faculty members and the director of our Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies, does not happen to be a member of that committee; nor, I might add, does he hold the views attributed to him in Mr. Condit's letter. Professor Stone is mystified as to the "source" of this particular allegation, and I enclose a copy of a letter he has sent to Mr. Condit.

Dr. Louis Pyle '41, the highly regarded director of our University Health Services, is also grievously misrepresented by Mr. Condit's letter. As part of its overall student health program, Princeton pro-

vides professional gynecological and reproductive health care as well as sexuality counseling and education. Those who know Dr. Pyle and his staff are continually impressed by the thoroughly professional and humane manner in which these services are provided.

Mr. Condit's callous discussion of this subject seems to me in particularly poor taste, and it is not just misleading — it is outrageous — to portray Dr. Pyle as viewing abortions or statistics on abortions as cause for "celebration." Such decisions are always difficult and often painful, and they are viewed that way by all concerned.

The activities of the University Health Services in this sensitive area are supervised by an on-campus advisory committee composed of University administrators, faculty, health professionals, chaplains, and student leaders, and Dr. Pyle's program is reviewed periodically by the Trustee Committee on Health and Athletics and by an external Advisory Council that includes health professionals from other campuses, alumni, and Trustees.

The number of undergraduate women who consult the Health Services each year because of pregnancies averages

